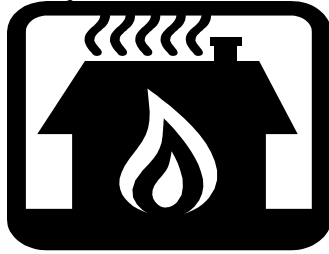




YOUR ENERGY CONNECTION



Hurricane Season June 1st through November 30th

Hurricane hazards come in many forms: [high winds](#), [tornadoes](#), and [flooding](#). This means it is important for your family to [have a plan](#) that includes all of these hazards. The first and most important thing anyone should do when facing a hurricane threat is to use common sense.

You should be able to answer the following questions before a hurricane threatens:

- What are the Hurricane Hazards?
- What does it mean to you?
- What actions should you take to be prepared?

High Winds

The intensity of a land falling hurricane is expressed in terms of categories that relate wind speeds and potential damage. Depending on circumstances, less intense storms may still be strong enough to produce damage, particularly in areas that have not prepared in advance. Tropical storm-force winds are strong enough to be dangerous to those caught in them. For this reason, emergency managers plan on having their evacuations complete and their personnel sheltered **before the onset of tropical storm-force winds**, not hurricane-force winds. Hurricane-force winds can easily destroy poorly constructed buildings and mobile homes. Debris such as signs, roofing material, and small items left outside become flying missiles in hurricanes. Extensive damage to trees, towers, water and underground utility lines (from uprooted trees), and fallen poles cause considerable disruption. The strongest winds usually occur in the right side of the eyewall of the hurricane. Wind speed usually [decreases significantly](#) within 12 hours after landfall. Nonetheless, **winds can stay above hurricane strength well inland.**

Tornadoes

Hurricanes can also produce tornadoes that add to the storm's destructive power. Tornadoes are most likely to occur in the **right-front quadrant** of the hurricane. However, they are also often found elsewhere **embedded in the rainbands**, well away from the center of the hurricane. We have no way at present to predict exactly which storms will spawn tornadoes or where they will touch down. The new Doppler radar systems have greatly improved the forecaster's warning capability, but the technology usually provides lead times from only a few minutes up to about 30 minutes. Consequently, **preparedness is critical.**

Tornado Facts

- When associated with hurricanes, tornadoes are not usually accompanied by hail or a lot of lightning, clues that citizens in other parts of the country watch for.
- Tornado production can occur for days after landfall when the tropical cyclone remnants maintain an identifiable low pressure circulation.
- They can also develop at any time of the day or night during landfall. However, by 12 hours after landfall, tornadoes tend to occur mainly during daytime hours

BEAT THE PEAK

“Peak” or “Peak Demand” is the greatest amount of electricity used at one time by an electric system, normally when a large number of customers are using appliances at the same time. By controlling the electric load or load management, we can keep electric costs in control. Rocky Mount averages approximately less than 10 days per month load managing. There are several options available:

Electric Water Heater Control-

Water heaters are cycled off during load management periods. Controlling water heaters will not affect the amount of hot water available. Customers receive **\$2.00** credit each month.

Electric Heat Strip Control-

Heat strips are controlled during the winter load management periods, while compressors continue to provide heat. Customers receive **\$15.00** credit each month if the temperature falls to 25 degrees or below on a non-holiday weekday.

Central Air Conditioning Total Control-

Customers receive **\$20.00** credit each month for July, August, and September. The credit is calculated based on yearly consumption. The compressor is turned off for the entire load management period. Fans will continue to circulate the cool air in your house, but your compressor will not generate any new cool air.

There are no installation or maintenance charges associated with this program.

**Call 972-1283 for more information .
Start your savings now!**



June 2006

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Flooding

When it comes to hurricanes, wind speeds do not tell the whole story. Hurricanes produce storm surges, tornadoes, and often the most deadly of all - inland flooding.

While storm surge is always a potential threat, more people have died from inland flooding in the last 30 years. Intense rainfall is not directly related to the wind speed of tropical cyclones. In fact, some of the greatest rainfall amounts occur from weaker storms that drift slowly or stall over an area.

Inland flooding can be a major threat to communities hundreds of miles from the coast as intense rain falls from these huge tropical air masses.

What can you do?

- When you hear hurricane, think inland flooding.
- Determine whether you live in a potential flood zone.
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Keep abreast of road conditions through the news media.
- Move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water.
- Do not attempt to cross flowing water. As little as six inches of water may cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- Develop a flood emergency action plan.

Have flood insurance. Flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance. Do not make assumptions. Check your policy.

One of the most important decisions you will have to make is "**Should I Evacuate?**"

If you are asked to evacuate, you should do so without delay. But unless you live in a coastal or low-lying area, an area that floods frequently, or in manufactured housing, it is unlikely that emergency managers will ask you to evacuate. That means that it is important for you and your family to **HAVE A PLAN** that makes you as safe as possible in your home.

Disaster prevention includes modifying your home to strengthen it against storms so that you can be as safe as possible. It also includes having the supplies on hand to weather the storm.

Hurricane Season June 1st through November 30th



What to Do if You Smell Gas

Call the Rocky Mount Gas Department immediately, anytime day or night, 972-1278

If you detect a gas leak, we want to know right away. Don't try to locate the problem yourself. If the odor is inside your home or business, an emergency situation could exist, and you should evacuate as a safety measure. Open a window and make sure you use no electrical switches. Extinguish any open flames and evacuate the area.